

Press Release

Office of Mayor Sam T. Liccardo

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Mayor Announces "We Are Built in San Jose"

Initiative Strengthens San José's Manufacturing Industry, Stimulates Jobs

San José, CA - Mayor Sam Liccardo today announced an initiative to preserve and strengthen manufacturing activity, broadening prosperity and creating a pathway to middle class jobs. Representatives from the City of San José, local manufacturing companies, workforce trainers, community colleges and power suppliers endorsed the Mayor's initiative and their commitment to growing manufacturing jobs in San José.

"In response to what I have heard from manufacturing companies on the challenges they face doing business, I am committed to collaborating with our partners to create a competitive environment where they flourish and generate more tech manufacturing jobs," said Mayor Sam Liccardo.

Through the initiative the City of San José will provide several incentives to strengthen its manufacturing industry, including:

- Providing permit fee waivers for manufacturing building retrofits,
- A 60-day permit approval process for expanding and relocating manufacturing companies,
- A 1% building and structures tax for new construction and tenant improvements for manufacturers and
- Preserving scarce industrial lands to promote growth of the manufacturing sector.

The Mayor's Manufacturing Initiative was launched at the Jabil Blue Sky Center in South San José. Jabil has recently expanded its manufacturing operations and envisions continued future growth in the area. "Jabil is profoundly committed to manufacturing in America and our innovative Blue Sky Center in San José is living proof," said David Wahl, VP of Operations and General Manager of Jabil San José. "We have built a world-class facility where innovators can bring their product ideas to life. Blue Sky reflects our focus on expanding jobs in the manufacturing space and engaging youth in this compelling career path here in San José and around the world."

Manufacturers consistently report a shortage of skilled workers as a key challenge to expanding operations in the US. In this regard, Jeff Ruster, Executive Director of Work2Future said that, "I am in conversations with local universities and colleges to align and expand training in applied engineering, machining skills and product design to better reflect the skills and experience that are needed. We are committed to rolling out customized training programs that will support manufacturers in securing the skilled workforce they seek."

PG&E and Bloom Energy representatives expressed their support to advancing Mayor Liccardo's initiative as well.

Travis Kiyota, VP Corporate Affairs of PG&E committed to "helping local businesses in the City of San José grow through incentives including competitive economic development rates. Whe new do this we help businesses grow, save money and stay in California."

"Bloom Energy is proud to be a part of the California manufacturing community and provide clean power to many of the companies here in San Jose," said Asim Hussain, Vice President of Marketing and Customer Experience at Bloom Energy. "We look forward to working together with the Mayor and City leadership to deploy clean energy solutions for manufacturing employers in San Jose."

Mayor Liccardo believes that this initiative gives manufacturers the confidence they need that the City of San José and its partners are working towards providing the right economic climate for their growth. In addition, these efforts to "next shore manufacturing" will promote opportunities to grow middle income jobs for San José's unemployed and underemployed residents.